

Grace Community Church when the land was purchased from Boulder City in 1990. The Reverend Dr. Ronald S. Freel (1999–2004), who was worshipping with and volunteering as an Associate Pastor, became the Senior Pastor. Pastor Kevin Roach, the new senior pastor, preached his first sermon on July 18, 2004, and continues to serve today. Serving under the direction of Senior Pastor Kevin Roach are: Associate Pastor Gard Jameson, Music Director Carol Simak, Assistant Music Director Barbara Walker, and Sharon Wieczorek, who served as the Office Manager for the past 7 years is retiring, and is being replaced by Jan Liebhauser.

The church recently recognized 14 people who have been members for 48 years or longer, and four who have been members for more than 60 years. Carol Bourne, Jack and Dorothy Rants, Lin Diebold, Roy and Elnor Gear, Byron Miller, Robert Austin, Del and Eloise Blue, Agnes Lockette, Lillian Rigney, and Bob and Virginia Moore have all been members for 48 years or longer, and at the age of 94, Mary Eaton has been a member for 72 years, Violet Tracht at 96, has been a member for 63 years, with Velma Stice a member for 65 years and Innis Risley being at the 60 year mark.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grace Community Church and its accomplishments in Nevada's history. I commend the church for its long history of service to the city of Boulder City and wish them good fortune for the next 75 years.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER SMITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Christopher Smith, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York, educational and civic communities. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Mr. Smith considers that the very nature of education dictates that it takes place all the time, anytime and anywhere. As an educator in the New York City Public School System, Mr. Smith employs the concept of "teachable moments" in and out of the classroom. Mr. Smith posits that teachable moments are times in the life of an individual where one consciously learns from trial and error. He believes that learning through this method allows students cognition to develop critically and to balance multitudinous tasks tossed at them by life.

The village it takes to raise a child is evident at Boys and Girls High School. Mr. Smith provides students and staff with many opportunities to learn how to develop, implement and evaluate programs and extracurricular activities. This includes the development of the Exemplary Mentoring Program, after-school tutoring, the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, the Annual Talent Show, the development of Black & Latino Awareness programs, the Academic Bowl, Pep rallies, Student Government, and other activities to increase school spirit. It is

important to Mr. Smith that the legacy of this great institution continues.

Born and raised in Bedford Stuyvesant (Gates Avenue), Christopher Smith is a product of the New York City Public Schools system. After graduating from Boys and Girls High School in 1996, he received his Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration at the State University of New York at Oswego, and received his Master's Degree in General Education and Special Education from Touro College in New York City. This summer, Mr. Smith is embarking on a path in his pursuit of obtaining an Educational Administration Master's Degree at the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York. When he successfully completes his Educational Administration Degree, he looks to earn his Educational Doctorate.

Mr. Smith works hard to keep the Boys and Girls High School legacy alive in the Bedford Stuyvesant community. He knows that his children are definitely the "Jewels of Bedford Stuyvesant". Although this task is not easy, God has equipped him with valor to complete this stringent journey and he works according to the following mantra: "It doesn't matter where my children come from but where I hope to help them get to."

Mr. Smith further states that when we derive pleasure from our daily lives, are stimulated or challenged by our work, enriched by the new things we learn, and by our contact with others; our lives are successful regardless of the specific setbacks of a particular day. When it is all said and done, and he recalls the day's events; he is satisfied in knowing that he was able to help his community.

Mr. Speaker, Christopher Smith's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of restored funding for Section 8 vouchers. Our Nation is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis—and hard working families are bearing the brunt of the short fall. Yet again Section 8 is funded below the President's request—this year \$144 million less than proposed.

The Nadler-Velázquez amendment will restore \$70 million for Section 8, providing vouchers for approximately 10,000 families. This increase will ensure that families working to create a better life for their children will

have a safe, decent place to call home—something that is critical to positive outcomes for the future.

The Section 8 program is a lifeline for millions of families struggling to make ends meet and end the cycle of poverty so common in low-income communities. In my district—and districts around the country—families have been waiting upwards of ten years for vouchers. We cannot turn our backs on families striving to achieve more for their children against the odds.

HONORING GENE & MARY MCCARTHY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a tremendous sense of pleasure to recognize the personal accomplishments and the long career of two of Western New York's finest citizens, a couple I am proud to call my friends Mary Doris and William Eugene "Gene" McCarthy.

Mary and Gene McCarthy are lifelong—and tremendously proud—residents, of the Old First Ward in South Buffalo, New York. Mary grew up on Sidway Street and Gene grew up a few streets away on Kentucky Street.

Mary and Gene were married on May 7, 1955 and resided on Hamburg Street before moving to 271 Katherine Street where they live today. They raised their three children, Patty, Billy and Maureen in this home in the Old First Ward Neighborhood.

This neighborhood holds great significance in my Congressional District because it has long been recognized for the Irish legacy instilled upon the area during the city's formative years. Irish immigrants who worked on the construction of the Erie Canal made their home here. They went on to work in the shipping industry, as scoopers, railroad operators, and factory workers to name a few.

Gene McCarthy followed in this tradition working for several years in Buffalo's grain mills, ending his industry career at Pillsbury Flour Mill to pursue a business venture of his own.

Gene and Mary opened the doors to McCarthy's Tavern on July 20, 1964 at 73 Hamburg Street. McCarthy's Tavern, a classic neighborhood Irish Pub that has become a First Ward Landmark and a favorite spot for grain workers, firefighters, police officers, politicians, lawyers and First Ward regulars alike.

Hard work, long hours, true friendships and constant generosity were the hallmarks of Gene and Mary McCarthy's life in the Tavern Business.

Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct honor to recognize Gene and Mary McCarthy on the occasion of their well deserved retirement from the tavern business after 42 years of service. The wonderful memories, stories, and good times shared by those who routinely came in for the welcoming atmosphere that McCarthy's Tavern offered will be present in the minds and hearts of many Western New Yorkers for years to come.